

Filter Strip

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

MA - 393



Definition

A strip or area of herbaceous vegetation situated between cropland, grazing land or disturbed land (including forest land) and environmentally sensitive areas. Sensitive areas include wetlands, water bodies and other areas susceptible to damage by sediment, particulate organics, and sediment-adsorbed contaminants.

Where used

Filter strips are used on cropland, grazing land, or disturbed land including forest land. A filter strip is typically positioned at the down-slope edge of a field or disturbed area. To the extent practical, an individual filter strip is placed on the approximate contour.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specification sheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. Multiple filter strips can be strategically located in a watershed to reduce and slow runoff and increase infiltration and ground water recharge. See practice standard Filter Strip, code 393, NRCS-MA, 1/89.

Landowner _____

Field number _____

Strip ID: _____

Conservationist _____

Date _____

Required Operation and Maintenance

- ✓ *Maintain original width and length of the filter strip.*
- ✓ *Harvest as appropriate to encourage dense growth, maintain an upright growth habit, and remove nutrients and other contaminants.*
- ✓ *Control undesired weed species, especially state-listed noxious weeds. Apply supplemental nutrients as needed to maintain the desired species composition and stand density of the filter strip*
- ✓ *Inspect after major storms. Remove trapped sediment, and repair and reseed disturbed or eroding areas and take other measures to prevent concentrated flow through the filter strip.*

Purpose (check all that apply)

- ☐ To reduce sediment, particulate organic matter, and adsorbed contaminant loading in runoff.
- ☐ To reduce dissolved contaminant loading in runoff.
- ☐ To serve as Zone 3 of a Riparian Forest Buffer (see Practice Standard 391).
- ☐ To reduce sediment, particulate organics, and sediment-adsorbed contaminant loadings in surface irrigation tail water.
- ☐ To restore, create or enhance herbaceous habitat for wildlife and beneficial insects.
- ☐ To maintain or enhance watershed functions and values.

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Strip ID#:	
Layout	
Strip width (feet)	
Strip length (feet) (25 foot minimum)	
Drainage area (acres)	
Area in strip (acres) (drainage area: filter area less than 60:1.)	
Filter area soil type and drainage class.	
Field slope (%) (must be between 1 and 10)	

Lime per Soil Test (tons/acre)	
Fertilizer per Soil Test – (lbs/acre N,P,K, etc.)	

Site Preparation
<i>Prepare a firm seedbed to assure good soil to seed contact. Apply lime and fertilizer as indicated by soil testing.</i>
Planting Methods (For detailed information see MA practice standard 512: Pasture and Hay Planting)
<i>Buy high quality certified seed that is regionally adapted. Seed as early as possible in the spring, when soils are dry enough to resist compaction. If seeding in late summer, do so by mid August. Inoculate legumes with the proper strain of Rhizobium to insure nitrogen fixation. For planting recommendations, Pasture and Hayland Planting Standard MA-512: Recommended Seeding Mixtures.</i>

Plant Materials (species/cultivars)	Seeding Rate (pure live seed – lbs/acre)	Seeding Date
Soil Amendments and Fertilization		

Additional Specifications and Notes:	

[illegible]